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CHINA.

Report on the bubonic plague in Hongkong.

[Transmitted to this Office by the Surgeon-General United States Navy.]

HONGKONG, CHINA, *March 2, 1896.*

SIR: I have the honor to inform you respectfully that the plague has assumed epidemic proportions in this place since I have been here; that isolation of suspected individuals has ceased to be practiced; and that all bills of health of the port state its prevalence, giving details of the precautions taken in cases where important mail steamers are concerned. It is also very prevalent in Canton and high up West River.

At his request I cabled this fact to the marine-hospital inspector at Yokohama, on the 24th instant, the day after these measures went into effect here.

I would respectfully direct your attention to the fact that the virus of this disease seems fully as ineradicable as that of glanders from surroundings favorable to it, which I consider that a few of our large cities most probably extend. Hence, I think that the most careful measures for its exclusion should be insured by repeated inspections of all steamers reaching our country from southern China. I am informed that its prevalence at Amoy in the past year has been concealed for commercial reasons, but I do not know this to be an absolute fact.

I have seen nearly all of the cases admitted since the 3d ultimo, and have made partial examinations of many bodies dead of it, every facility being shown me by the acting colonel surgeon, Dr. J. M. Atkinson, and his assistant, Dr. J. A. Lawson, whose practical knowledge of this scourge is unexcelled. It is very fatal. With the exception of about a dozen mild cases that came about a month ago, at least 95 per cent of observed cases have died, and that usually within the first four days of illness. * * *

Very respectfully,

W. F. ARNOLD, M. D.,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, United States Navy.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

CUBA.

*Sanitary report from Santiago.*SANTIAGO DE CUBA, *March 28, 1896.*

SIR: I have the honor of submitting the following report on the sanitary condition of Santiago de Cuba for the two weeks ended on March 28:

Ninety deaths have been reported for that period, of which 8 were from yellow fever, 12 from tuberculosis, 3 from croup, 2 from typhomalaria, 15 from enteric fever, 10 from pernicious fever, 3 from pneumonia, and the rest from diseases, acute and chronic, of noncontagious character.

Smallpox has commenced to spread to an alarming degree. The local authorities are taking measures to prevent the disease from spreading and becoming epidemic, as it is in Manzanillo and other towns. A hospital has been prepared outside the city limits and several cases are under treatment there, and vaccination is daily practiced, the number of children already vaccinated reaching up to about 2,000.

It is impossible to find out the number of cases in the town, as the poorer classes don't call in the regular physicians to attend their sick.
* * * So far, the cases reported have ended favorably, but as the

warm weather sets in we will have bad cases, as it always happens with us.

We have few soldiers in our town just now, and that accounts for the few cases of yellow fever reported. * * * Inclosed you will find a report from Santa Cruz from January 1 up to date.

At Manzanillo the smallpox epidemic still continues its deadly work—47 deaths are reported for the last two weeks from the disease.

The following vessels have been granted bills of health by me during the present week: March 23, schooner *E. Goodwin*, American, bound to Philadelphia, and steamship *Tafna*, British, bound to Philadelphia; March 26, steamship *Remus*, German, bound to Philadelphia, and steamship *Panama*, Spanish, bound to New York; March 28, steamship *Santiago*, American, bound to New York (visé).

Respectfully,

HENRY S. CAMINERO, M. D.,
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

JAPAN.

One death from plague on the steamship Gaelic.

WASHINGTON, April 4, 1896.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose for such action as you may deem proper a copy of a telegram, received on the 2d instant, from our consul-general at Kanagawa, reporting a death from plague on the steamship *Gaelic*, which sailed for San Francisco from Yokohama on the 31st ultimo.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

RICHARD OLNEY.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

[Inclosure.]

YOKOHAMA, April 2, 1896.

Chinese passenger left *Gaelic* here, died next day, of plague. *Gaelic* sailed 31st for San Francisco via Honolulu.

N. W. McIVOR,
United States Consul-General.

Hon. SECRETARY OF STATE.

WASHINGTON, April 6, 1896.

Passed Assistant Surgeon M. J. ROSENAU, *Angel Island Quarantine, California*:

Chinese passenger left steamer *Gaelic* at Yokohama, and died next day with plague. *Gaelic* sailed 31st for San Francisco via Honolulu. Inform health authorities and quarantine officer.

WYMAN,
Surgeon-General U. S. M. H. S.

No further cases of cholera in Japan.

YOKOHAMA, March 15, 1896.

SIR: I have the honor to notify you that since the date of my last report upon the subject, no new case of cholera has been reported by the home department. The Japanese Government has not yet enforced a complete quarantine against Hongkong, but is carrying out a rigid system of inspection of vessels.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE, M. D.,
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.